

The Independent

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OUTLOOK FOR TRADE.

COMMERCE STILL WAITS UPON CONGRESS.

Some Prices Rise Solely Because of Short Supply—Philadelphia Line Proposes to Resist Spanish Cruisers—Steamer St. Paul on the Beach.

Dun & Co.'s Review.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "The week has been marked by improvements apparent rather than real. Prices of some products have risen, but only because supplies are believed to be smaller than expected. The Senate still injures all business by doing nothing and the treasury cannot expect to gain in gold as yet, but losses less than was expected. It is generally assumed that the new loan will be placed without difficulty, though the successive payments may cause continued disturbance. A deluge of foreign reports favorable to wheat speculation found ready answer in an advance of over 5 cents here, in spite of Western receipts 50 per cent. larger than last year."

How Spaniards to Kingdom Come.

The Hart Line steamers, plying between Philadelphia and Cuba and the West Indies, will in future be armed with cannon and Maxim guns. Capt. Ker, counsel for the owners, has notified the Collector of the Port that they will carry howitzers, and will blow the exotic Spaniards to kingdom come should they give any more trouble. The two vessels first on the list for equipment are the *Horsa* and *Laurada*, both of which have gained no little notoriety from their alleged connection with filibustering expeditions to Cuba. Capt. Ker avers that both vessels will need arms for self-protection, the *Laurada* from the pirates which infest the coast of Africa, the *Horsa* from the Spaniards gunboats. The Spanish authorities in the city will, it is said, exert every influence to prevent the Hart boats from leaving the port of Philadelphia with arms on board. Capt. Ker said: "I am told that the Spanish authorities have said that if they catch any of the vessels of the Hart Line in Cuban waters they will make it hot for them, this information may not be true, but I have every reason to distrust the Spaniards. The verdict in the case of Capt. Hughes shows that our vessels have not done anything wrong. We are not going to give up the West Indies trade, and we know there are no United States war vessels to protect us. We have concluded to go into the protecting business ourselves and we will put guns on our boats and use them if necessary. There are lots of young men from our naval training vessels who would be only too glad to get positions where they could show their capacity, and there are no better gunners in the world than they are."

Raced Into a Sand-Bar.

The *Campania*, a steamer, that the American liner *St. Paul* ran her nose 100 feet into the white sands of Long Branch Friday at midnight. Stories differ about the *Campania*, it being declared and denied that she, too, ran aground, but was able to release herself. The stranding of the *St. Paul*, it was learned when her passengers arrived in the city at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, occurred at the close of a seventeen-hour race, called off on account of the heavy fog. This is vouched for both by Captain Walker of the *Campania* and the passengers of both ships. Walker came near going ashore himself off Elberon, but was warned by the men of the life-saving crews and dropped anchor in time to save his ship. It is possible the *St. Paul* cannot be floated in time to save her.

Rich Field in China.

The Chinese Government has agreed to open the West River provided China is allowed to retain the territory ceded under the Burmah-China convention in 1894. The cities of Canton and Hong Kong are situated on the bay into which the West River empties. The news occasioned no small satisfaction in Hong Kong. The trade of the rich province of Yunnan had begun to be diverted by the activity of the French in Tonquin from its natural channel down the river.

Decide Against Kenefick.

The Cook County Commissioners in Chicago canceled the contract with P. Kenefick & Co., who are charged with delivering short-weight coal to the county's dependents, voted to withhold further payments to that firm and appointed a committee to present the case to the Grand Jury.

BREVITIES.

Theodore Runyon, United States ambassador to Germany, expired suddenly and unexpectedly at Berlin at 1 o'clock Monday morning of heart failure.

At London Ambassador Bayard sent Queen Victoria a message from President Cleveland expressing sincere condolence with her Majesty on the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg.

The first assay of rock taken from the new Bonner District in San Diego County, California, assayed \$167,250 to the ton, or \$83,625 to the pound. The field closely resembles that of Cripple Creek.

The American ship *Roucoux*, Captain Joseph Hamilton, which left New York 217 days ago, has reached San Francisco after a season of disaster and delay. Three of her original crew were lost in the Atlantic and sixteen were left in the hospital at Rio Janeiro.

It was announced Thursday from Paris that by the terms of a treaty signed Jan. 18 the Island of Madagascar is declared a French possession.

The conference of silver leaders at Washington resulted in a decision to put a national ticket in the field. The convention to make nominations will be held at St. Louis on July 22.

The general merchandise and hardware store of J. Q. Burchfield Jr. and the residence of Mark McLee, at Howard, Kan., seventy-two miles south of Emporia, were totally destroyed by fire. The loss is \$60,000, insurance \$40,000.

EASTERN.

New York society has snubbed Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, formerly Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt. A musical in aid of a hospital has been declared off, the patronesses refusing to serve when they learned it was to be held at her house.

An explosion of gas occurred Tuesday in the factory of Frank P. Pilagar & Co., New Haven, Conn. One man was instantly killed by the explosion, two others lost their lives in the fierce fire which followed. The buildings and contents were destroyed, and a loss of \$100,000 was caused.

At Erie, Pa., Agent Frank Moore of the Agricultural Department, with K. T. Mead of Pittsburgh as attorney, prosecuted Fred Hale, the Armour & Co. agent, for violating the State food law by selling oleomargarine. Hale was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 and costs. Two civil actions against the company are pending.

The steamer *Seaguarance*, at New York, from Mexican ports and Havana, landed four sailors from the wrecked Norwegian bark *Borghild*, which, while proceeding down the Mexican coast on Jan. 12, was knocked down by a norther and capsized. All hands were saved. Two seamen of the schooner *O. W. Jones*, which was wrecked on the bar at Santa Anna, were bound for New Orleans, also arrived on the *Seaguarance*.

Gen. Thomas Ewing, ex-member of Congress from Ohio, died Tuesday morning at New York, from the effects of injuries received by being struck by a cable car. Gen. Ewing, who was a member of the law firm of Ewing, Whitman & Ewing, of New York, was born in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1829. He was admitted to the bar in Cincinnati in 1856 and went to Kansas during the free soil struggles. When the State of Kansas was admitted to the Union, he was appointed chief justice, but resigned to enter the Union army in the civil war as colonel of the Eleventh Regiment of Kansas. He rose to the rank of brigadier general, and afterward was breveted major general and had command of the Department of the Missouri. He went to Washington in 1863 as the assistant of ex-Secretary of the Interior Browning, and returned to Ohio in 1870 and entered politics. He was a member of Congress from 1877 to 1881 and in 1879 ran for Governor on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated. In 1881 he went to New York to practice law, and for many years he was president of the Ohio Society there. Gen. Ewing had five children, all grown up. Mrs. Ewing is still living.

WESTERN.

Frank J. Cannon and Arthur Brown have been elected to the United States Senate by the Utah Legislature.

A San Francisco paper says President Cleveland has accepted an invitation from Attorney W. W. Foote to spend part of his vacation next summer on the Pacific coast.

The Westliche Post, of St. Louis, the leading German Republican paper of the central west, came out strong Wednesday morning in favor of McKinley for presidential nomination.

Lord Sholto Douglas, son of the Marquis of Queensberry, found fault with the orchestra leader of Lady Douglas's troupe at Orville, Cal., and as a result was thrashed by the musician.

The mammoth gas pumping station of Ind., exploded and destroyed Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. The shock of the explosion caused buildings to shake and sway as by an earthquake. Two men were killed and four injured.

The secretary of the Oakland, Cal., branch of the American Railway Union has received a letter from the private secretary of E. V. Debs in which the statement telegraphed from the East that Debs is to resign the presidency of the union is denied. He says Debs will win the fight in which he is now engaged on behalf of organized labor or die in the attempt.

Mme. Modjeska, who was taken ill at Cincinnati Monday, is suffering from the same disease of which Lawrence Barrett died. The glands of the throat are badly swollen and the trouble extends down into the lungs and, by sympathy, the physicians say, to the shoulders and arms. What the nature of the disease is no one pretends to define precisely, but it is certain there is reason for alarm.

The engine of the New York and St. Louis express on the Little Miami Railroad exploded Wednesday morning forty miles from Columbus, Ohio, killing Clark A. Trimble, engineer, and George Waiters, fireman, both of Columbus. No other persons were killed or injured. The track was all torn up, requiring transfer of passengers temporarily at that point. All of the cars were wrecked except the sleepers.

The 9-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman, near Delaware, O., discovered the family shotgun under the bed. He pointed it playfully at his baby brother, and saying, "I'm going to shoot you," pulled the trigger. The cap failed to explode. Turning the muzzle toward the cat, which was sitting on the hearth, he said: "I'll try my luck on 'Tabby.'" This time the gun fired, and there was nothing left of "Tabby."

Almost the entire population of Cuba, Putnam County, O., was engaged Monday dragging Blanchard river for the bodies of five children, a girl and four boys, drowned Sunday afternoon. Three children of John Shuman and two children of George Shuman were playing on the ice when it broke and four of the children disappeared. The eldest, a boy of 16, attempted to rescue the girl and was drowned also.

As the result of a fire in the building at No. 415 Broadway, St. Louis, Mo., Tuesday night five firemen were buried in the ruins. Owey Hines, foreman of truck No. 6, who was taken from the burning building soon after the fire started, badly suffocated and cut, died while being taken to Mercy Hospital in an ambulance. The dead are: Milton Curly, Capt. Glanville, Owey Hines, James Rhoddy. — Staunton. The total loss caused by fire and water is estimated at \$200,000, fairly insured.

SOUTHERN.

The Louisville Paper Company at Louisville, filed a deed of assignment. B. F. Fansley was made assignee. The liabilities are placed at \$25,000. The cause of the assignment, as given out, is hard times.

Intense excitement prevails in the newly discovered oil fields underlying the border counties of Kentucky and Tennessee. Speculators and boomers have followed in swarms on the heels of the first reports of oil, but the agents of the Standard, as well as other organizations and

individual investors, preceded them and have already leased every acre of land for miles around. The belt will probably range from forty to fifty feet in width, following closely the Cumberland plateau. Daily carloads of machinery for sinking of wells and putting up of plants are arriving at Rugby Road. Ten or twelve border counties are embraced in the oil district, which is the least settled and wildest part of Tennessee. Investments to date approximate \$15,000,000.

Bishop Haygood, of the M. E. Church South, died at his home in Oxford, Ga., Sunday morning. Atticus Green Haygood was born at Watkinsville, Ga., on Nov. 19, 1839. He was graduated at Emory College, Ga., in 1859, and licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the same year. From 1870 to 1875 he was editor of the Sunday school publications of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In 1876 he was elected president of Emory College, where he remained eight years. He was appointed general of the John F. Slater fund in 1883 for the education of colored youth in the Southern States and has since devoted himself to this work and efforts for the progress of the colored race. Dr. Haygood was the author of several religious works.

WASHINGTON.

The House Committee on Public Lands has received from Secretary Smith a strong adverse report against the free homestead bill. The measure is a sweeping one and land office officials estimate its passage would involve at least \$300,000 of cost to the Government and \$18,000,000 in Oklahoma alone. This is the amount paid to the Indians for the relinquishment of their lands there.

It was learned Sunday that an agent of the War Department had been making inquiries in Cleveland for an available site for the location of a fortification for the protection of the city in case of war. One site considered is located at Rocky River, six miles west of Cleveland, on a bluff from which heavy guns could command the entrance to the harbor east and west. There were no negotiations for the purchase of the place.

Much anxiety is shown at the State Department over Clara Barton's Red Cross expedition to Armenia, in face of the orders from the Spanish authorities. Miss Barton has been denied special passports, and will be given no recognition by the representatives of the American Government in Constantinople. Secretary Olney regards her mission under the circumstances as a grave mistake, which is likely to result in a further difficulty with the Turkish Government. If Miss Barton is peacefully ejected the Secretary of State will not enter protest. If she is maltreated our Government will undoubtedly interfere. While Secretary Olney approved of Miss Barton's mission when at first proposed, and, in fact, suggested it, he does not approve of undertaking it in face of the protests of the Sultan.

Ex-Congressman Hatch, of Missouri; J. Hewes, of Maryland, and H. C. Adams, of Wisconsin, have established in Washington in behalf of the National Dairy Union, which represents interests aggregating \$6,000,000,000, for the purpose of procuring the passage by Congress of a bill to limit the effect of the commerce clause of the constitution with respect to the oleomargarine and filled cheese, or what is known to the dairymen as the Hill-Apsley-Groat bill of the fifty-third Congress, while a third provides for the registering of State trade marks. It is thought that all three measures can be successfully pushed through Congress at its present session, although strong opposition is anticipated from the manufacturers and wholesale vendors of fraudulent dairy products.

FOREIGN.

Rumors are current at Bilbao, Spain, of greatly increased activity in Carlist circles, where it is hoped that the reverses which the Spanish forces have suffered in Cuba and the failure of Gen. Camo to put down the insurrection may cause the Spanish people against the Government of the queen regent and afford an opportunity for Don Carlos, or Don Jaime, his son.

A dispatch from Ekaterinoslav, capital of the Government of that name in South Russia, gives the details of a fire that occurred in a theater there, causing large loss of life. The fire was discovered while a performance was going on. The spectators became panic-stricken and made a wild rush for the exits. Forty-nine bodies have already been taken out. A number of persons who are known to have been in the theater are still missing.

Prince Henry of Battenberg, husband of Princess Beatrice of England, who went to Ashantee in a special capacity and who contracted fever there, is dead. The news was received at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, early Wednesday. The queen and Princess Beatrice are prostrated with grief. The greatest sorrow is manifested throughout the Isle of Wight at the death of Prince Henry and the flags everywhere are at half-mast.

A dispatch received from Osborne, Isle of Wight, says that the health of Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice is affected by the shock experienced when the news of the death of Prince Henry of Battenberg was made known to them. The remains of the prince will be interred at Windsor and the ceremony to be followed will be similar to that used at the burial of the remains of the Duke of Albany, Queen Victoria's youngest son, who died in 1881.

The Paris Figaro says it has received private information that the Abyssinians captured Makalle, the Italian position, Sunday. Previous to this report, the latest news from Abyssinia was that King Menelik had invaded Makalle, and that Gen. Baratieri, the commander of the Italian forces, was at Erythrae and approaches to that place being almost impassable from natural causes, besides being guarded by 60,000 Abyssinians.

The alleged program of Gen. Weyler, the new Governor General of Cuba, has been cabled from Spain. He will not follow Gen. Campos' policy; politically he will be an opportunist; war will be answered with war; he will be inexorable towards spies and rebel sympathizers, but lenient towards those surrendering under arms; he will endeavor to establish an efficient blockade to prevent the landing of arms and ammunition from the United States; that he will not be sanguinary, but will deal justly. He says that two months ago it would have been easy to suffocate the rebellion; now it will not be so easy on account of its spread. But he promises satisfactory results in the future. The same dispatch reports that 17,000 men

will be sent from Spain, beginning in February, with two batteries of mountain artillery.

A dispatch to the London Pall Mall Gazette from Constantinople, dated Wednesday, says that an offensive and decisive alliance has been concluded between Russia and Turkey. The treaty was signed Jan. 18 at Constantinople, and the ratifications were exchanged at St. Petersburg between Aaref Pasha and the czar. The basis of the treaty is declared to be on the lines of the Unkar-Skelessi agreement of 1833, by which Turkey promised, in the event of Russia going to war, to close the Dardanelles to warships of all nations. The Pall Mall Gazette's correspondent adds that the treaty must soon be abandoned owing to the refusal of the powers to recognize it. He also says the French ambassador, M. Cambon, conferred with the sultan yesterday, and that it is probable France will be included in the new alliance.

B. Argos, an Armenian resident of New Britain, Conn., is in receipt of a letter from a friend in Armenia, in which details are given of the awful massacres perpetrated in the district of Harpoot. The letter, which was secretly mailed and came via Persia, says that between nine and ten thousand Armenians have been massacred, and upward of one hundred thousand are starving and destitute in the district. Some of the Armenians have taken to eating grain. Of the 300 villages in Harpoot, five have been sacked and burned by Turks and Kurds. The rest are occupied by the butchering soldiers. There were twelve Armenian missions in the district, but eight of them have been burned. The lives of the Armenians have been spared, but they, with the Armenians, are in great want, and in some instances they are starving.

Cuban affairs came to the front in the Senate in a new guise Tuesday when Senator Call read a telegram from Key West telling of the arrest of American citizens by the Spanish authorities. The telegram is as follows: "Marquis Rodriguez was taken from steamer Olivette last Wednesday. Louis Samallien and son also taken at Havana. All American citizens. Get them out of grasp of Spanish authorities." Senator Call offered a resolution reciting the arrests and directing the executive authorities to ascertain if any just cause for the arrests existed, and if not, to demand their immediate release. Senator Hagar suggested that the tone of the resolution was too imperative. There seemed to be an idea, he said, that the Senate of the United States is a constantly loaded cannon, which can be touched off at any time by a Senator. The Senator urged an inquiry of the State Department before a demand.

The press and people of Venezuela have declared commercial war against England. The newspapers publish daily this notice in display type: "To the People: Whoever buys English products increases the power of Great Britain." For two months from Jan. 15 the press will give daily the names of Venezuelan and foreign merchants dealing in any manner with England on her colonies. There is a bright outlook for American trade. President Crespo is releasing many political prisoners, and Congress is soon to meet. The Government has bought a light-draft steam craft and armed it with light Hotchkiss guns for service on the Orinoco river. There is a rumor that the German Government has sent a sharp demand for the immediate payment of the \$10,000,000 debt. The enrolling of militia is to Jan. 20, and the militia will drill with wooden guns. The town of San Sebastian, in the State of Miranda, has been depopulated by yellow fever.

IN GENERAL.

The wife of Hon. George N. Curzon, who was formerly Miss Mary Leiter, of Washington, was delivered of a daughter Monday.

Eugene V. Debs says he is going to retire from the A. R. U. and become a newspaper man, and that he will probably locate in Chicago.

A large number of American sealers have become dissatisfied with the manner in which the Customs Department of the Government is handled on Puget Sound, and are seeking protection under the English crown.

The China ships, Clarence S. Bennett, Captain Franck, and William H. Connor, Captain Pendleton, crossed the New York bar together Wednesday night outward-bound. The John Currier, Captain Lawrence, and the Josephus, Captain Kilkey, left later for the same port—Shanghai. The ship that first reaches her destination will win a purse of \$400, which the captains have made up.

MARKET REPORTS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$3.50 to \$5.00; hogs, shipping grades, \$3.00 to \$3.25; sheep, fair to choice, \$2.50 to \$2.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 53c to 61c; corn, No. 2, 28c to 30c; oats, No. 2, 18c to 19c; rye, No. 2, 38c to 39c; butter, choice creamery, 19c to 21c; eggs, fresh, 15c to 17c; potatoes, per bushel, 18c to 25c; broom corn, \$20 to \$30 per ton for poor to choice.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$4.75; hogs, choice light, \$3.00 to \$4.00; sheep, common to prime, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2, 45c to 60c; corn, No. 1 white, 26c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 26c to 27c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; wheat, No. 2 red, 64c to 66c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 25c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 18c to 19c; rye, No. 2, 34c to 36c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$3.50 to \$4.75; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2, 60c to 71c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 28c to 29c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 20c to 22c; rye, No. 2, 42c to 43c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.25; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 63c to 70c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 27c to 29c; oats, No. 2 white, 21c to 23c; rye, 38c to 39c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 red, 63c to 70c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 27c to 29c; oats, No. 2 white, 20c to 22c; rye, No. 2, 38c to 40c; clover seed, \$4.40 to \$4.50.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 spring, 60c to 61c; corn, No. 2, 25c to 27c; oats, No. 2 white, 19c to 20c; barley, No. 2, 33c to 35c; rye, No. 1, 39c to 41c; pork, mess, \$10.25 to \$10.75.

Buffalo—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.25; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.50; sheep, \$2.50 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 72c to 75c; corn, No. 2 yellow, 31c to 32c; oats, No. 2 white, 24c to 25c.

New York—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.25; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.75; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2 red, 72c to 74c; corn, No. 2, 36c to 37c; oats, No. 2 white, 24c to 25c; butter, creamery, 15c to 21c; eggs, Western, 17c to 19c.

WILL PERMIT RELIEF

AID ALLOWED TO SUFFERING ARMENIANS.

Sublime Porte, However, Will Not Recognize the Red Cross Society—Ban Upon Catholic Membership of Secret Societies to Be Eternal.

Sultan Partly Relents.

Owing to the energetic representations of United States Minister Terrell, Miss Barton and her party will be permitted by the Turkish Government to distribute relief to the distressed Armenians, although the Red Cross will not figure in the work. This news came to the State Department Friday in a cablegram from the minister to Secretary Olney, in which he says that while the porte refuses such permission to the Red Cross, or to the members of the Red Cross, as such, and thereby declines to officially recognize that society, it will permit any person whom the minister names and approves to distribute relief in the interior of Turkey, provided the Turkish authorities are kept informed of what they are doing. There can be no question that Miss Barton and her party will be so designated by Mr. Terrell. But it is apprehended that they will encounter almost insurmountable obstacles in reaching the field of action, as the mountain passes between the seaboard and the interior are now practically impassable owing to the deep snow.

Satoli Declines to Hear Appeal.

The ban placed by the Roman Catholic Church upon the orders of Knights of Pythias, Sons of Temperance and Odd Fellows is absolute and admits of no further discussion. This is the mandate of the pope, through his official representative, Cardinal Satoli. The three orders named have a Roman Catholic membership in round numbers of nearly a hundred thousand. One month ago a number of prominent Catholics connected with the Pythian order organized a committee of appeal in the hope that a proper presentation of the case before the papal delegate would result in a recall of the interdiction. In response to invitations the committee received a thousand letters from prominent Roman Catholics in all parts of the country heartily indorsing the movement and pleading moral and financial aid.

Confessions on the Gallows.

"I did the deed. I killed George Wells and don't want anyone else to suffer for the crime but myself," said Henry C. Foster, as he stood upon the scaffold at the Cook County jail at Chicago Friday noon. Three minutes later the murder for which the young colored man had been tried was legally avenged. The "Black Bear" died with the exemplification of the nerve that he has so often declared he would display upon the gallows. Not once did he betray weakness during the ordeal which preceded the adjusting of the noose and the paraphernalia of death. There was an absence of the bravado manner that the young man's varied life might have instilled in him.

Would Lynch the Murderers.

Webster Grove, the St. Louis suburb, was wildly excited over the tragedy, when Bertram A. Atwater, the young Chicagoer, was waylaid by highwaymen. One of the robbers, John Schmidt, wounded to death by the plucky Chicagoan, would die. The other thug, Sam Foster, a colored ex-convict, who fired the fatal shots, and Peter Schmidt, who arranged the trap into which Mr. Atwater was unsuspectingly lured and then slain, are in custody. At their examination they tried to escape, and only determined action by the officers prevented a mob from lynching them.

Young Omaha Hero.

That not a pupil was injured in a blaze which started Thursday morning on the first floor of the Dodge street school at Omaha, Neb., was due to Ollie Downs, a 16-year-old boy. Ollie is the head drummer in the fire drill. He handles the drum to keep the children in marching order. As soon as the alarm was given he hurried down to the principal's office, got his drum and, stationing himself near the door, pounded out the tunes while the children marched out of the building.

Too Much Scandal.

Washington dispatch: Col. R. E. A. Crofton, commander of the Fifteenth Regiment of Infantry at Fort Sheridan, Ill., has been asked to retire from the army. Secretary Lament sent him a letter saying that on account of certain evidence revealed in the Pague court-martial trial the President would be pleased to grant his application for retirement. In six months more Crofton could have retired upon his own motion.

NEWS NUGGETS.

Anatole France, the author, has been elected a member of the French Academy.

Mme. Modjeska is so seriously ill that all her engagements have been canceled.

A receiver is asked for the Lincoln (Neb.) Savings Bank and Safe Deposit Company.

Bertram E. Atwater, the Chicago artist and designer, was shot and killed by highwaymen in a St. Louis suburb.

William Foster, Jr., of New York city, engaged in the business of mining and manufacturing, has made an assignment to his son. The liabilities are expected to be about \$400,000, and the assets are largely in excess of that amount. The assignment is made in order to enable Mr. Foster, who is in ill health, to retire from business.

An explosion of chemicals in the laboratory of the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Company, in room 219 of the old Stock Exchange Building at Chicago, caused a fire that wrecked all the offices on the second floor, frightened into panic or hysterics the occupants of the building and resulted in the severe injury of two persons.

Miss Clara Barton and the staff officers of the Red Cross Society sailed Wednesday from New York for Constantinople.

President Cleveland declares that the Davis Monroe doctrine resolution is "mischievous, inopportune and unfortunate."

Jennie Goldthwaite, the "Kitty Glover" of the Princess Bonnie Opera Company, is engaged to marry Frank Murphy, the Chicago broker.

The Democratic members of the Mississippi Legislature have nominated Congressman H. D. Money for United States Senator to succeed J. Z. George.

A WHARF RAT.

One Seen in a Walk Along South Street.

"I had read about wharf rats, and heard about them often," said a man. "The other day I saw one. I was walking along South street, and I saw a sound boat whose sailing hour was about due, and I thought I'd like to see her start out. You couldn't see much of her from the wharf at which she lay, on account of the pier shed; and so I went round and down the wharf on the other side of the ship. The wharf was housed over, but it had the usual openings in the sides, and from one of them I got a good view of the boat I wanted to see, directly opposite at work taking on the last of the steamer's load. Over there it was all activity; where I was it was all quiet. There was no boat on either side, and only a truck or two and three or four men on the wharf.

"While I stood there in the broad opening looking at the boat and at the flags floating over it a rat appeared six or eight feet away, on that side of the opening toward the river end of the wharf; it came out from alongside of or under the stringpiece, where it was cut off so that the floor of the wharf might in the opening be unobstructed to the edge.

"I don't know how big wharf rats grow, but this was the biggest rat I ever saw; it was a big rat, and yet, big as it was, it didn't seem monstrous; that is, it didn't seem like a rat of unusual size for the place, for it acted as though it belonged there and was perfectly familiar with the place and its surroundings. It was quick and smooth in its movements, but not hurried. The instant it appeared it started across the opening. It crossed in front of me, within a few inches of where I stood, but without deviating from its course, and disappeared under the corresponding end of the stringpiece on the other side.

"In the presence of that rat I felt like a stranger. Where he came from and where he was going I didn't know, nor what his errand was, but it was plain enough from the ease and certainty with which he moved that he knew that wharf from bulkhead line to pierhead in every spile and brace, and probably he knows all South street just as well. He didn't stop to look at the boat; he wasn't interested in it, as I was, for he lives there and sees it every day."

Some Rare Minerals.

"Once in a while," remarked a mining man last evening, "you hear of a man who claims to have found a mine of bismuth, and basing his calculations upon a price of say \$2 a pound, he heralds his find and thinks he has a fortune within his grasp. The fact is, there is no bismuth produced in this country and there are only about thirty tons imported. So if any one could put 100 tons on the market it would bring the price down to 25 cents, at least.

"Of cobalt not more than 200 tons are produced in the world."

"In regard to mica—I am speaking now of the uses it is put to in electrical appliances—the East Indian product is driving the Canadian product out of the market. Mica that is in the least associated with iron is useless for this purpose. It is much the same with some of the rarer minerals. Were tellurium found in large quantities its value would lessen, but, as only a few ounces are found each year, not enough to supply the demand, why the value is enhanced."

Three-fifths of the nickel produced in the world comes from Canada. The production in other portions of the world is so small as to cut no figure in the statistics of mineral productions.—Spokane Review.

Novel Use of Searchlight.

The electric searchlight was used recently to put down a riot in Lancashire, England. A manufacturer, whose men had struck, was determined to keep his mill going, and he promptly secured new hands and set them to work. At the same time he fixed a searchlight on the factory building to prevent the strikers from setting fire to the sheds erected for the new hands. During the continuance of the strike this light was used nightly in conjunction with the police established in the works, to scour the country and to illuminate the part where pickets were placed. It was found so effective that a large number of temporary police were dispensed with.

Fear of Death.

The absence of fear of death which is such a striking character of the Chinese nature has a logical explanation. The Chinese are taught that only those who face death fearlessly enter into happiness in the other world. Foreigners who have witnessed executions in China bear witness that, as the executioner with his sword mows down the kneeling ranks, the convicts invariably meet death with jest.

Lions.

The Mesopotamian lion is usually without a mane, although upon the Kzrum River some have been found with a long black one. Such a lion, a recent traveler tells us, is called a Kadir, or infidel, the maneless lions being Mussulmans. These latter, if properly adjoined, may, say the inhabitants, be induced to spare life on orthodox confession of faith, while the unbelieving lion